

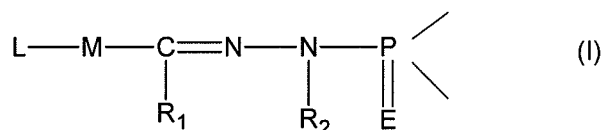
Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Previously Presented) A solid support, comprising at least one surface covalently functionalized with phosphorus-containing dendrimers having a central core that contains at least two functional groups and comprising at their periphery several functions binding said dendrimers to said surface and also allowing the binding or the *in situ* synthesis of molecules of interest, said dendrimers being between 1 and 20 nm in size, characterized in that the dendrimers are chosen from those consisting of:

- a central layer in the form of a central core P₀, optionally containing phosphorus, comprising from 2 to 12 functionalized groups,

- n intermediate layers, which may be identical or different, each of said intermediate layers consisting of P₁ units corresponding to formula (I) below:



in which:

L is an oxygen, phosphorus, sulfur or nitrogen atom,

M represents one of the following groups:

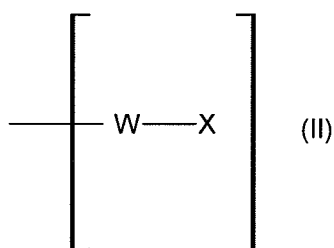
- an aromatic group di-, tri- or tetrasubstituted with alkyl groups, alkoxy groups, unsaturated groups of the C₁-C₁₂ olefinic, azo or acetylenic type, all these groups possibly incorporating phosphorus, oxygen, nitrogen or sulfur atoms or halogens, or
- an alkyl or alkoxy group comprising several substituents as defined when M is an aromatic group,

R₁ and R₂, which may be identical or different, represent a hydrogen atom or one of the following groups: alkyl, alkoxy, aryl, optionally comprising phosphorus, oxygen, sulfur or nitrogen atoms or halogens with R₂ usually being different than R₁,

n is an integer between 1 and 11,

E is an oxygen, sulfur or nitrogen atom, said nitrogen atom possibly being linked to an alkyl, alkoxy or aryl group, all these groups possibly incorporating phosphorus, oxygen, nitrogen or sulfur atoms or halogens,

- an external layer consisting of units P₂, which may be identical or different, and corresponding to formula II below:

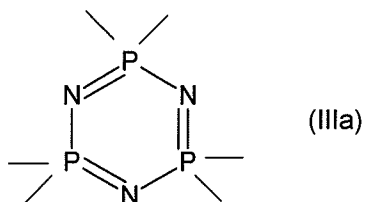


in which:

W represents one of the following groups: alkyl, alkoxy, aryl, all these groups possibly comprising phosphorus, oxygen, nitrogen or sulfur atoms or halogens,

X represents an aldehyde, thiol, amine, epoxide, carboxylic acid, alcohol or phenol group.

3. (Previously Presented) The solid support as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the central core P₀ is selected from the group consisting of the group of general formula IIIa:

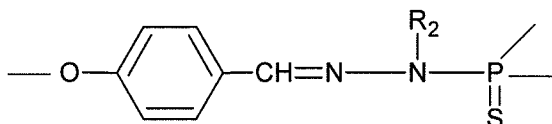


and the group of general formula IIIb:

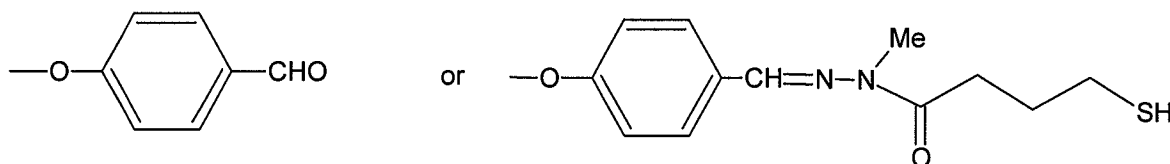


in which R₅ represents a sulfur, oxygen or nitrogen atom.

4. (Previously Presented) The support as claimed in claim 2 , characterized in that the dendrimers are chosen from compounds in which the group of formula (I) represents the following group:



in which R₂ represents a C₁-C₁₂ alkyl radical and more particularly a methyl radical;
and the group of formula (II) represents one of the following two groups:



and in which the number of generations preferably ranges between 1 and 6.

5. (Previously Presented) The solid support as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that it is chosen from supports comprising at least one siliceous surface, such as glass slides, beads and capillaries, silicon or plastic supports and metallic supports.

6. (Previously Presented) A process for preparing a solid support as defined in claim 2, characterized in that it comprises a step of forming a covalent bond between phosphorus-containing dendrimers having a central core that contains at least two functional groups, said dendrimers comprising at their periphery several functions capable of allowing their binding to said surface and the binding or the *in situ* synthesis of molecules of interest, and the functionalized or nonfunctionalized surface of a solid support to obtain a solid support covalently functionalized with said dendrimers.

7. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that the dendrimers comprise at their periphery functions allowing the direct attachment, via a covalent bond, of these dendrimers to the non-prefunctionalized surface of said solid support.

8. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that the dendrimers comprise thiol functions at their periphery and in that the solid support comprises a gold surface.

9. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 6, in which the surface of the solid support used does not comprise any functions that are compatible with the peripheral functions of the dendrimer used, characterized in that it comprises the following steps:

a) the functionalization of at least one surface of a solid support with functions capable of allowing the binding of phosphorus-containing dendrimers having a central core that contains at least two functional groups, said dendrimers comprising at their periphery several functions capable of allowing their binding to said surface thus functionalized and the binding or the *in situ* synthesis of molecules of interest;

- b) the optional preactivation of the functions of the support to obtain an activated functionalized surface,
- c) the formation of a covalent bond between said dendrimers and said functionalized and optionally activated surface, to obtain a solid support covalently functionalized with said dendrimers.

10. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 9, characterized in that the step a) of functionalization of the surface of the solid support is performed by silanization using a silanization reagent comprising functions capable of binding dendrimers, for instance amine groups.

11. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 9, characterized in that the silanization reagent is aminated.

12. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 9, characterized in that the preactivation step is performed by treating the support with a basifying agent for a period of between 2 and 20 minutes.

13. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 6, characterized in that the step of covalent binding of the dendrimers consists in:

- preparing a solution of said dendrimers in a solvent,
- placing said dendrimer solution in contact with the optionally functionalized and optionally activated surface, for a period of between 10 minutes and 24 hours.

14. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in-claim 6, characterized in that after the step of covalent binding of the dendrimers, the supports are rinsed and then dried.

15. (Previously Presented) A process for the immobilization and/or *in situ* synthesis of molecules of interest comprising providing a solid support functionalized with phosphorus-containing dendrimers as defined in claim 2, and binding and/or *in situ* synthesizing the molecules of interest at said functions of said support.

16. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 15, characterized in that the molecules of interest are nucleic acid molecules, lipids, proteins or molecular partners thereof.

17-26. (Cancelled)